

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9969

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 4039

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA, PK

SUBJ: LOCAL WORK WEEK

REF: STATE 093486

1. STANDARD WORK WEEK FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICES IS
7:30 A.M. TO 2:30 P.M., MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY AND
SATURDAY. FRIDAY HOURS ARE 7:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.
GOVERNMENT OFFICES CLOSED ON SUNDAY.

2. THE WORK WEEK FOR MOST COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS
IS 9:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M., MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY WITH
MANY BUSINESSES CLOSING FOR TWO-THREE HOURS DURING THE
PERIOD 1:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M. MANY SMALLER BUSINESSES
CLOSE DURING PART OR ALL OF THE MUSLIM SABBATH, FRIDAY.
SOME COMMERCIAL FIRMS, PARTICULARLY THOSE SELLING TOURIST-
TYPE PRODUCTS, ARE OPEN THE ENTIRE DAY OR AFTERNOON/EVENINGS
ON SUNDAY.

3. LARGER BUSINESS OFFICES WHICH ARE NOT PHYSICALLY
TIED TO A COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT OFTEN OBSERVE
GOVERNMENT BUSINESS HOURS OR THE WESTERN 9:00 A.M. TO
5:00 P.M. WORK WEEK, DEPENDING UPON THE SECTOR WITH WHICH
THEY CONDUCT MOST BUSINESS.

4. THE BEST TIME TO PLAN TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN PAKISTAN
IS FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M. WEEKDAYS AND SATURDAY.
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FRIDAY IS A BAD DAY TO ATTEMPT BUSINESS AS

DEVOUT MUSLIMS ARE FREQUENTLY ABSENT EVEN DURING
WORKING HOURS FOR PRAYERS AND SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EVENTS.
A GOOD SCHEDULE FOR A VISITING BUSINESSMAN IS TO SCHEDULE
BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT VISITS DURING THE HOURS MENTIONED
ABOVE, THEN PLAN RETAIL VISITS AND PRIVATE SHOPPING IN
THE LATE AFTERNOON OR EARLY EVENING. DINING HABITS FOLLOW
THE EUROPEAN PATTERN WITH BETTER RESTAURANTS SERVING THEIR
MAIN MEALS BEGINNING AT 8:00 P.M.

5. EMB OFFICE HOURS ARE 8:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M., MONDAY THROUGH
FRIDAY.
BYROADE

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